

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0039] on page 12 as follows:

[0039]

All the topsheet 2, backsheet 3, and absorbent member 4 having extensibility and contractibility, the sanitary napkin 1 of the present embodiment has extensibility and contractibility as a whole. The extensibility and contractibility of such an absorbent article (the napkin 1) are preferably such that, when the napkin 1 is 150% extended in its longitudinal direction, maintained in the extended state for 2 hours at 40°C and 80% [[RH]] relative humidity, and released from the extended state, the length of the absorbent article measured after 20 seconds from the release is 130% to 150%, more preferably 130% to 140%, of the initial length and that the length of the absorbent article measured in the same manner as above but after 5 minutes from the release is 100% to 130%, more preferably 100% to 120%, of the initial length. In other words, it is preferred that the napkin 1 does not contract the moment it is detached from an undergarment but slowly contracts after the detachment. Thus, when the napkin 1 after use is removed from an undergarment for disposal, it slowly reduces in size. This is advantageous in that the absorbed liquid is prevented from being squeezed out immediately after the detachment and soiling the user's hand and that the napkin 1 can be disposed of in a compact form. The reason the napkin 1 slowly reduces in size is that body heat has been applied to the napkin 1 for a given period of time while worn whereby the fibers are heat set.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 18 as follows:

The napkin was 150% extended and fixed, as extended, to a 2 mm thick vinyl chloride plate at its both longitudinal ends with adhesive tape. The hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive layer on the surface of the backsheet was kept off the plate. The napkin was allowed to stand at 40°C and 80% [[RH]] relative humidity for 2 hours and detached from the plate. The length of the napkin was measured 20 seconds and 5 minutes from the detachment. The test was carried out in triplicate to obtain an average length.